

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 PER-01 SSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 EB-08

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /104 W

-----078817 111910Z /50

R 101430Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6965

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USINT HAVANA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, BY, CU, EAID

SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE AND RECALL

REF: BUJUMBURA 0381

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, I PRESENTED MY LETTERS TO PRESIDENT BAGAZA APRIL 6. PRESENTATION CEREMONY WAS SHORT AND INFORMAL. IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT, FONMIN MMANGA AND PIERRE NGENZI, SECRETARY GENEFC OF PRESIDENCE, WERE PRESENT.

2. US/BURUNDI RELATIONS. BAGAZA OPENED CONVERSATION BY GOING OVER IMPROVEMENT IN US/BURUNDI RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS AND REITERATED BURUNDI'S DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS AND GREATER COOPERATION WITH US. US, HE SAID, HAS ACCEPTED BURUNDI'S FEW SIMPLE TENETS AS BASIS FOR SOLUTION OF ITS PROBLEMS AND FACT THAT BURUNDI PURSUES A FOREIGN POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. HE REASSURED ME THAT GRB IS TRULY NON-ALIGNED AND THAT THERE ARE NO CAMPAIGNS IN KIRUNDI
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OVER RADIO OR IN PRESS AGAINST WEST.

3. CUBAN EMBASSY. BAGAZA RAISED OPENING OF CUBAN EMBASSY HERE. HE SAID THERE IS NO NEED FOR GOVERNMENTS OF RWANDA AND ZAIRE TO BE PRE-OCCUPIED BY CUBAN PRESENCE. THERE WILL BE NO SUBVERSION OR MILITARY ACTION AGAINST BURUNDI'S NEIGHBORSBY ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSY IS IN CONTEXT OF POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE THOUGHT US COULD PLAY USEFUL ROLE IN CALMING REACTIONS OF ZAIRE AND RWANDA.

4. ASSISTANCE. BAGAZA SAID GRB HOPING FOR GREATER ASSISTANCE FROM US. HE POINTED OUT BURUNDI RECEIVING MARGINAL AMOUNT COMPARED TO MANY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, AND WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THE COUNTRY'S STAGGERING NEEDS STEMMING FROM OVER-POPULATION AND DECLINING PRODUCTIVITY. I REPLIED WE HAD NOTED GRB'S DECLARATION OF INTENTIONS TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS OF RURAL

POOR AND THAT OUR OWN ASSISTANCE PRIORITIES WERE IN ACCORD WITH THESE GOALS. AFTER DISCUSSING SIZE AND DIRECTIONS OF AID PROGRAM, I SAID I THOUGHT IT BEST TO PROCEED SLOWLY AND SURELY IN BUILDING UP PROGRAM SO AS TO ENSURE ITS VALIDITY.

5. DIALOGUE ON POLICY. BAGAZA ASKED THAT WE KEEP HIS GOVERNMENT INFORMED ON U.S. POLICIES IN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST. ALTHOUGH GRB HAS NO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN LATTER, IT INTERESTED IN KEEPING ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS. HE ALSO SAID HE THOUGHT US SHOULD PLAY ROLE IN HELPING AFRICAN STATES RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS THEY HAVE WITH EACH OTHER. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO STABILIZING CENTRAL AFRICA. I SAID I WOULD BE PLEASED TO BRIEF MOFA ON OUR VIEWS AND POLICIES FROM TIME TO TIME.

6. SECRETARY'S GREETINGS. I EXTENDED SECRETARY'S BEST WISHES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BAGAZA WHICH HE ACCEPTED WITH PLEASURE. HE NOTED SECRETARY TRAVELLING EXTENSIVELY AND SAID VISIT TO BURUNDI WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. I NOTED SECRETARY PRE-OCCUPIED TO LARGE EXTENT WITH CRISES AND THAT HIS TRAVELLING WAS PRETTY MUCH TAKEN UP WITH TRIPS TO CRITICAL AREAS.
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